

CITY OF BOULDER
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM

MEETING DATE: December 15, 2014

AGENDA TITLE: Public Hearing and Consideration of a Motion to Approve a Lease Agreement with Growing Gardens to Provide a Community Garden Program at Various Parks and Recreation Locations

PRESENTERS:

Jeff Dillon, Director, Parks and Recreation

Yvette Bowden, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation

Teri Olander, Parks and Recreation Manager, Programs and Partnerships

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this item is for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) to review and consider the approval of a multi-year lease agreement with Growing Gardens (GG) to provide community garden programs at Hawthorn Park, Foothills Community Park, Fortune Park and Hickory Garden. The agreement term would be January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017.

The Parks and Recreation Department (department) contracted with GGs from 2011 through 2014 to provide a community garden program including plot management and garden programs. The department has received positive feedback on the program and is seeking to renew the agreement based on GG's past experience in providing successful community garden spaces and programming.

The attached lease agreement between the department and GG defines the relationship between the two organizations, including a scope of work and performance benchmarks. (Attachment A).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the PRAB approve the agreement and authorize the City Manager to make minor amendments prior to or during the term of this agreement in order to ensure that community gardening is provided in a manner that is consistent with applicable laws and the policies and regulations of the City of Boulder.

Suggested Motion Language:

Staff requests PRAB's consideration of this matter and action in the form of the following motion:

Motion to approve the lease agreement with Growing Gardens to provide a community garden program at Parks and Recreation Department properties and authorize the City Manager to make minor amendments prior to or during the term of this agreement in order to ensure that community garden programming is provided in a manner that is consistent with applicable laws and the policies and regulations of the City of Boulder.

COUNCIL FILTER IMPACTS

Economic: Community gardens are community assets that provide outdoor opportunities for the Boulder community. GG will ensure that community members who are economically disadvantaged are able to participate in the program.

Environmental: The community garden locations are located in safe and environmentally friendly locations in Boulder. GG agrees that all wildlife and wildlife habitats on the properties will be protected and agrees to control weeds on the properties using approved processes recommended by the city's Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM).

Social: Community gardens are valued parks and recreation facilities and gathering places for a variety of gardening services. Community members have shown support for gardening programs previously provided by GG. Additionally, GG will establish a Garden Leader Volunteer Committee and develop workdays for volunteers to gather to perform community service.

OTHER IMPACTS:

Fiscal: This agreement will include maintenance responsibilities assigned to GG. The lease of the properties will be \$1.00 annually. An existing staff member will be responsible for contract management.

ANALYSIS:

GG has provided community gardens programs for the department from 2011-2014 serving all ages and abilities of community members. In 2014, GG rented 474 plots serving over 1422 community gardeners. Four percent of the gardeners were registered with the city's Reduced Rate Program. In 2013, the community gardens program donated over 2215 pounds of food to the local community.

- GG reported that between 2011 and 2014, between 96 and 98 percent of community gardens participants reported being physically active one or more hours each week.

- GG conducts and annual participant survey as part of their Program management. Results indicate an improved rating of administration of community garden programs as “good” or “excellent” year over year.

Additionally, GG provided the following annual report data regarding participation and community food donations.

Year	Rented Plots	Participants	Donated Pounds of Food (lb)	Reduced Rate Participants
2011	327	981	1200	36 (4%)
2012	495	1281	634	26 (2%)
2013	490	1470	2215	51 (4%)
2014	474	1422	TBD	59 (4%)

The prior agreement will expire December 31, 2014 and the City and Growing Gardens desire continued operation of the community gardens program.

The department and City Attorney staff negotiated in good faith with representatives from GG to develop the attached agreement.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Lease Agreement for Community Gardens to Provide a Community Garden Program at Various Parks and Recreation Locations